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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/379,702	08/24/1999	HISASHI OHTANI	07977/093002	1613
20985	7590	10/19/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC 12390 EL CAMINO REAL SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2081				LEE, EUGENE
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2815	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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09/379,702

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT      PAPER

20051017

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

In response to the paper filed 6/30/05, the appeal brief filed 10/6/04 does not comply with 37 CFR 41.37 ( c ). The appeal brief will be held as defective, and not docketed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences until a substitute appeal brief is filed in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONTACT THE USPTO

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eugene Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-1733. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on 703-308-2772. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eugene Lee  
October 17, 2005

  
EUGENE LEE  
AU 2815

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

MAILED

JUN 30 2005

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte HISASHI OHTANI  
and  
TORU MITSUKI

Application 09/379,702

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on June 20, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being electronically returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below:

A review of the file indicates that appellants filed an Appeal Brief on October 6, 2004 using the format set forth in 37 CFR § 1.192(c). However, 37 CFR § 1.192 was abolished on September 13, 2004, and replaced by 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

Accordingly, the Appeal Brief filed on October 6, 2004 does not comply with 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37 states:

- (a)(1) Appellant must file a brief under this section within two months from the date of filing the notice of appeal under § 41.31.
- (2) The brief must be accompanied by the fee set forth in § 41.20(b)(2).
- (b) On failure to file the brief, accompanied by the requisite fee, within the period specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the appeal will stand dismissed.
- (c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:
  - (i) Real party in interest. A statement identifying by name the real party in interest.
  - (ii) Related appeals and interferences. A statement identifying by application, patent, appeal or interference number all other prior and pending appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings known to appellant, the appellant's legal representative, or assignee which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal. Copies of any decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified under this paragraph must be included in an appendix as required by paragraph (c)(1)(x) of this section.

(iii) *Status of claims.* A statement of the status of all the claims in the proceeding (e.g., rejected, allowed or confirmed, withdrawn, objected to, canceled) and an identification of those claims that are being appealed.

(iv) *Status of amendments.* A statement of the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection.

(v) *Summary of claimed subject matter.* A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters. For each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claim argued separately under the provisions of paragraph (c)(1)(vii) of this section, every means plus function and step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, must be identified and the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function must be set forth with reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

(vi) *Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.* A concise statement of each ground of rejection presented for review.

(vii) *Argument.* The contentions of appellant with respect to each ground of rejection presented for review in paragraph (c)(1)(vi) of this section, and the basis therefor, with citations of the statutes, regulations, authorities, and parts of the record relied on. Any arguments or authorities not included in the brief or a reply brief filed pursuant to § 41.41 will be refused consideration by the Board, unless

good cause is shown. Each ground of rejection must be treated under a separate heading. For each ground of rejection applying to two or more claims, the claims may be argued separately or as a group. When multiple claims subject to the same ground of rejection are argued as a group by appellant, the Board may select a single claim from the group of claims that are argued together to decide the appeal with respect to the group of claims as to the ground of rejection on the basis of the selected claim alone.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the failure of appellant to separately argue claims which appellant has grouped together shall constitute a waiver of any argument that the Board must consider the patentability of any grouped claim separately. Any claim argued separately should be placed under a subheading identifying the claim by number. Claims argued as a group should be placed under a subheading identifying the claims by number. A statement which merely points out what a claim recites will not be considered an argument for separate patentability of the claim.

(viii) *Claims appendix.* An appendix containing a copy of the claims involved in the appeal.

(ix) *Evidence appendix.* An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied

upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) *Related proceedings appendix.* An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(iii) of this section.

(2) A brief shall not include any new or non-admitted amendment, or any new or non-admitted affidavit or other evidence. See § 1.116 of this title for amendments, affidavits or other evidence filed after final action but before or on the same date of filing an appeal and § 41.33 for amendments, affidavits or other evidence filed after the date of filing the appeal.

(d) If a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, appellant will be notified of the reasons for non-compliance and given a time period within which to file an amended brief. If appellant does not file an amended brief within the set time period, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for non-compliance stated in the notification, the appeal will stand dismissed.

(e) The time periods set forth in this section are extendable under the provisions of § 1.136 of this title for patent applications and § 1.550(c) of this title for ex parte reexamination proceedings.

An in-depth review of the Appeal Brief indicates that the following sections are missing from the Appeal Brief filed

October 6, 2004:

Application 09/379,702

- 1) "Summary of claimed subject matter," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v);
- 2) "Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vi);
- 3) "Claims appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(viii);
- 4) "Evidence appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix); and
- 5) "Related proceedings appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x).

A substitute brief that is in compliance with § 41.37(c) is required. For more information, see the United States Patent and Trademark website [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), and, in particular, the web page entitled "More Information on the Rules of Practice Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, Final Rule" located at the following URL:

[www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html)

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner:

Application 09/379,702

- 1) to hold the Appeal Brief filed October 6 2004 defective;
- 2) for notification to appellants to file a substitute Appeal Brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37;
- 3) for consideration of the substitute Appeal Brief, and, if necessary, to vacate the Examiner's Answer mailed December 21, 2004, and issue a new Examiner's Answer;
- 4) for written notification to appellants regarding the action taken; and
- 5) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

By:



DALE M. SHAW  
Program and Resource Administrator  
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DMS/psb

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